

FUND DESCRIPTION

Background

Jewish Federation of St. Louis aims to lower the barrier to accessing clinical mental health services for individuals in the St. Louis Jewish community. Federation's third COVID needs assessment identified mental health challenges throughout the community, across a wide range of populations. This needs assessment, along with the planning process Federation conducted earlier this year focusing on addressing the mental health needs of young adults in our community, showed that cost is a key barrier to accessing clinical mental health services.

Therefore, a pilot fund has been created to help our community partners support their constituents' financial needs for accessing mental health care. **The fund began with \$10,000; an additional \$20,000 was added to the fund in February 2022.** Over time we will assess the need/demand for and impact of the fund.

Eligibility & Guidelines

- The requestor must be a tax-exempt Jewish organization or congregation in the St. Louis, MO region
- These funds will be used to reimburse organizations/congregations who are providing cash assistance to local constituents to support their access to clinical mental health services, based on financial need (as assessed by the requesting organization)
- These funds are intended to support St. Louis Jewish or Jewish adjacent individuals
- part of a St. Louis Jewish community
- Reimbursements are subject to review and approval
- **The organization cap has been increased, and based on the rate of requests and spending, each organization can request a total of up to \$6,000.**

Definitions

- **Clinical mental health services:** Includes individual and group therapy by a licensed professional
- **Financial need:**
 - Without these funds, the individual would not otherwise be able to pay for clinical mental health services
 - It is the responsibility of requesting organizations/congregations to work with their constituents to understand/assess financial need
- **Reimbursement:** Means that the expenses have already been incurred and the cash assistance has been provided by the requesting organization/congregation

TIMELINE & PROCESS

Please note, the limited pilot funds will be dispersed on a first-come first-served basis, and we do not know when the funds will be exhausted.

Timeline for Reimbursement and Review

- Organizations can request reimbursement no more often than every other week
- Reimbursement requests should not cover more than four weeks' time
- Funding cannot be used to reimburse assistance that was provided before December 6, 2021
- Funds are available on a rolling basis
- Staff will review submitted requests every two weeks and make reimbursement decisions

Reimbursement Process

Requests must be submitted by, or approved by, a senior staff member of the organization/congregation.

Requests should be submitted via email to Emily Bornstein at EBornstein@JFedSTL.org, and must include the following:

- DO NOT include any information that might identify your constituent(s) receiving support
- Total amount requested
- Total number of constituents being supported by this request
- For each constituent, provide: # of sessions/services accessed, and \$ amount provided

Other Resources

If your constituent is experiencing additional financial challenges, we recommend connecting them with Jewish Family Services (JFS). JFS provides cash assistance for medicine, medical bills, rent, mortgage, utilities, technology, and more. Learn more [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Bornstein at EBornstein@JFedSTL.org.